

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I join Representative LAMAR SMITH and his fellow colleagues from the Lone Star State of Texas in considering H.R. 4774, as amended, which renames the postal facility in San Antonio, Texas, after the Honorable Cyndi Taylor Krier. As stated, the measure at hand was first introduced by Congressman SMITH on December 18, 2007, and is co-sponsored by all members of the Texas congressional delegation. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where it was amended and then passed by voice vote on February 26, 2008.

H.R. 4774 would help to recognize the life and service of Cyndi Taylor Krier by renaming the post office on John Saunders Road in San Antonio, Texas, in her honor. A remarkable public servant, Ms. Krier has given over 25 years of her life in government service, with positions on the Federal, State and local levels in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

Born July 12, 1950, in Beeville, Texas, Cyndi Taylor Krier became the first woman ever elected as Bexar County judge, where she represented 1.4 million people in the metropolitan area of San Antonio, Texas. She was reelected as county judge in 1994 and 1998 without opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we pay tribute to the contributions made by this great American citizen and pass H.R. 4774, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the sponsor of the bill, such time as he may consume.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. First of all, I thank my friend from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the former chairman of the Government Reform Committee, for yielding me time. I also want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for bringing this bill to the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor Cyndi Taylor Krier, a distinguished public servant who has spent more than a quarter of a century in local, State and Federal public office in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

Cyndi Krier began her public service career when she became the first woman from Bexar County elected to the Texas senate. She represented Bexar County in the State senate from 1985 to 1992, serving on the Finance, Education, Jurisprudence, and Natural Resources Committees. She then became the first woman elected Bexar County judge. She served as county judge from 1992 to 2001, representing more than 1.4 million people in the San Antonio metropolitan area.

Cyndi Krier also was a regent for the University of Texas system from 2001 to 2007, overseeing the University of Texas' nine academic and six health campuses, and serving as vice chairman of the board and as chairman of the academic affairs committee.

Cyndi Krier's family has strong ties to the United States Postal Service. Her grandfather served as postmaster in Dinero, Texas, until his death in 1956, and was succeeded by her grandmother, who served as postmaster for more than 20 years. Her mother served the United States Postal Service in Beeville, Texas, for more than 30 years as a clerk, rural route delivery person, and civil service examiner.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of a good friend, Cyndi Taylor Krier, by supporting H.R. 4774, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10250 John Saunders Road in San Antonio, Texas, as the Cyndi Taylor Krier Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, again, it gives me great pleasure to have introduced this bill and to see it considered by the House today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to urge passage of this bill honoring a tremendous citizen of the great State of Texas for her continued dedication to improving her region, state, and country—the Honorable Cyndi Taylor Krier.

A native of Texas, Cyndi Krier has proudly followed in the footsteps of a long line of public servants. Her grandfather served as the postmaster in Dinero, Texas, until his death in 1956 and was succeeded by his wife, Cyndi's grandmother, who served as postmaster for an additional 20 years. Additionally, Cyndi's own mother served the USPS in Beeville, Texas, for more than 30 years.

Earning both her bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Texas, Austin, Mrs. Krier was elected to the State Senate in 1984 and went on to serve two terms, until 1992.

In 1992, Mrs. Krier became the first woman and first Republican ever elected as Bexar County Judge. In this capacity she worked to "Build a Better Bexar County."

Throughout her career as judge, she focused on youth education programs, broad-based ethics reform, recycling and conservation, competition for country and contracts and controlling government spending. She was successfully reelected twice in 1994 and 1998.

In 2001, Governor Rick Perry appointed her to a six-year term on the University of Texas System Board of Regents. She served in various capacities on the board including as vice chairman and as Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Krier has remained active in the community outside of her professional duties. Whether through her work with the United Way, serving as Chairman of the UT Austin Ex-Student Association or the number of statewide task forces helping to plan for the future of Texas, Judge Krier has consistently demonstrated her commitment to improving others' lives.

I urge swift passage of this bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10250 John Saunders Road in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Cyndi Taylor Krier Post Office Building," to honor this dedicated, passionate, and tireless public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this fitting tribute.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4774, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1245

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING EARL LLOYD FOR BECOMING THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN TO PLAY IN THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION LEAGUE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 286) expressing the sense of Congress that Earl Lloyd should be recognized and honored for breaking the color barrier and becoming the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association League 58 years ago.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 286

Whereas Earl Lloyd was born in Alexandria, Virginia on April 3, 1928;

Whereas Earl Lloyd first developed his passion for basketball at the city of Alexandria's segregated Parker-Gray High School;

Whereas Earl Lloyd was drafted by the NBA in 1950 as a ninth round pick by the Washington Capitols;

Whereas on October 31, 1950, Earl Lloyd became the first African-American to play in the NBA;

Whereas Earl Lloyd dissolved the color barrier in the NBA 3 years after Jackie Robinson had done the same in baseball;

Whereas Earl Lloyd proudly put his professional career on hold and served in the Army for 2 years before returning to the NBA;

Whereas Earl Lloyd played 560 NBA games and won a championship before retiring in 1960;

Whereas in 2003, Earl Lloyd was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame; and

Whereas the newly constructed basketball court at T.C. Williams in his home town of Alexandria was named in his honor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that Earl Lloyd should be recognized and honored for breaking the color barrier and becoming the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association League 58 years ago.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman

from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, JIM MORAN from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend Mr. DAVIS, and also his excellent staff assistance provided by William Miles and Roberto Valencia. I very much appreciate the work that has gone into this.

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 286. It recognizes and honors Earl "Big Cat" Lloyd for tearing down the color barrier and becoming the first African American to play in the National Basketball Association.

Earl Lloyd was born in Alexandria, Virginia, on April 3, 1928, at a time in our Nation's history when racial prejudice was intense.

Mr. Lloyd developed his passion for the game of basketball as a star at the segregated Parker-Gray High School. This was well before Parker-Gray was joined with George Washington High School into T.C. Williams, which subsequently has been made famous by the movie "Remember the Titans."

He was twice named an All-American at West Virginia State College, where he led his collegiate alma mater to two conference and tournament championships, including the school's only undefeated season in 1947-1948. I am told our colleague ED TOWNS was actually recruited by West Virginia State or played with them, but, anyway, he has some connection. But this is about Earl Lloyd.

Drafted by the Washington Capitols in 1950, Mr. Lloyd played his first game in the NBA on October 31, 1950. Imagine. This was the first time that the NBA actually allowed somebody to play in the NBA who could actually jump. Over the course of nine seasons, interrupted by a 2-year stint in the Army, Mr. Lloyd played in 560 games, helping carry his team to an NBA championship in 1955. Mr. Lloyd later became the NBA's first African American assistant coach, and went on to be the head coach of the Detroit Pistons.

When I spoke to Earl yesterday, he wanted to acknowledge this honor on behalf of all the great African American players along the way who never got a chance to play in the NBA solely because of their race. His mom used to tell him, "Earl, never fold up your tent, never give up, and never disappoint the people who love you." He had just returned from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

Tournament. For decades, that used to be called the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Tournament. How easy it is to forget the way things used to be, even in our lifetimes.

I trust that this resolution will receive the unanimous support of my colleagues, and I thank the dozens of Members who were willing to sign on as cosponsors. Mr. Lloyd deserves this recognition.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask of the bill's sponsor if he would mind adding my name as a cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Done. We would be very proud of that.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the reason I want to do that is because I remember "Big Cat." When I was a boy, I remember when he broke into the NBA, and he was an outstanding basketball player.

The prejudice that occurred back in those days was unbelievable. I played sports at Shortridge High School, and we used to go down to a place called St. Andrews and we played against some really great basketball players who understood how the game was to be played.

Big Cat said, and I just read his biography, his background here, said it was tougher playing basketball on the grass courts and the asphalt courts than it was when he went into college and the NBA, and I can attest to the fact that that was pretty rough basketball.

We played against a guy, he probably doesn't remember me very well, but we played against a guy named Oscar Robertson back in the fifties who was a pretty good basketball player from Indiana. And "Biscuit" Williams and Herschel Turner and some of the other guys that had to endure the prejudices of that time were really outstanding basketball players. You have to give an awful lot of credit to people who were willing to fight and overcome the racial prejudice and barriers that existed at that time.

So Big Cat gets my vote, along with Oscar Robertson and all these other guys. I really admire them for what they went through, and I also admire them for their basketball ability. I am telling you, some of those guys were unbelievable. Oscar Robertson was the only guy I ever saw play basketball who could go in five different directions at once and hit a shot without touching the rim. He was unbelievable. And Big Cat was in that league as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 286, honoring the accomplishments of Lloyd, the first African-American man to play in the NBA.

How strange it must seem to young people that a league now 80 percent populated by African-American players once didn't allow them.

But before Earl Lloyd signed with the Washington Capitols in 1950, that wasn't the case.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to take away anything from the well-chronicled accomplish-

ments of Jackie Robinson. But in some ways, it must have been more difficult to do what Earl Lloyd did.

Baseball is played on a big field, and the players are rarely close enough to the fans to hear their comments.

Basketball is played in a room—sometimes not all that big of a room. Players wear what amounts to glorified underwear. In basketball, players hear the comments that get directed at them.

But Earl Lloyd was used to that. Raised in Alexandria, Virginia, Lloyd honed his skills on the tough playgrounds of this very city, Mr. Speaker. He once said college and even pro basketball were easy after the education he'd received on the Banneker and Parkview playgrounds in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Earl Lloyd did not accomplish what he did because of his skin color. And how did he do it? He helped his teams win. At West Virginia State, he led his team to two conference championships and one runner-up finish. In the pros, after being drafted by Washington, he played six seasons with the Syracuse Nationals.

In 1955, the Nationals won the NBA title, making Lloyd the first African-American man to own an NBA championship ring.

Today, he works in community relations for the Bing Group, which was founded by another D.C. basketball legend—Dave Bing.

He continues to contribute and make his community proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this fitting tribute.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I always knew that Representative DAN BURTON was indeed a superstar. I just didn't get a chance to watch him play. Of course, ED TOWNS often talks about his days as a star athlete and basketball player.

But as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Con. Res. 286, which acknowledges sports legend Earl Lloyd for breaking the color barrier and becoming the first African American to play in the National Basketball Association League 58 years ago.

H. Con. Res. 286 was introduced by our colleague, Representative JIM MORAN of Virginia, on January 29, 2008, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on February 26, 2008, by voice vote. The measure has the support of over 85 Members of Congress and provides our body a chance to reflect on and remember another individual's inspiring story as part of our country's long history of racial integration.

Mr. Lloyd's participation in the 1950-51 professional basketball season marked the integration of the National Basketball Association, which has since then become one of the most diverse professional sporting leagues in the world.

A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Earl Lloyd has long been recognized as

one of the NBA's early defense greats. Earl Lloyd, also known as "Big Cat," played college basketball at West Virginia State College before being selected in the ninth round of the 1950 NBA draft by the Washington Capitols. Under Lloyd's leadership, West Virginia State became the only undefeated college team in the United States during the 1947-48 season.

After his years with the Washington Capitols, Lloyd joined the Syracuse Nationals and became the first black player to win an NBA championship. Later, with the Detroit Pistons, he was the first African American to be named an assistant coach and the first to be named the bench coach.

Mr. Speaker, let us also note that although Lloyd was the first to play in an NBA game, there were actually three African Americans to enter the NBA in the 1950-51 season. During this season, Charles "Chuck" Cooper played with the Boston Celtics, and Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton became the first African American to play for the New York Knicks.

Even today, as we continue to see African Americans break barriers and become the first in an array of fields from athletics to business, Presidential campaigns to research and discovery, let us take an opportunity to look back on what occurred 58 years ago to make our Nation a more perfect Union.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H. Con. Res. 286, which expresses the sense of Congress that Earl Lloyd should be recognized and honored for breaking the color barrier and becoming the first African American to play in the National Basketball Association.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I join in honoring Earl "Big Cat" Lloyd, a Northern Virginia native who rose to become the first black player in the history of the NBA.

Earl Lloyd grew up in Alexandria, learned his basketball on the always-competitive playgrounds of Washington, DC. He played his high school ball at the segregated Parker-Gray High in Alexandria. Today, of course, all students in the city attend T.C. Williams High. The merger of the three high schools that existed then served as the plot line for the movie "Remember the Titans." Today, the basketball court in the recently rebuilt T.C. Williams is named for him.

Lloyd actually was one of 3 African-Americans to enter the NBA at the same time. It was only because his team played its first game a day before the Boston Celtics unveiled Charles Cooper and 4 days before the New York Knicks' Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton made his debut that it was Lloyd who broke the color barrier.

Lloyd scored 6 points in that game on Halloween night of 1950 and averaged 8.4 points and 6.4 rebounds over his 560-game, 8-season career. But he, Cooper and Clifton endured the taunts, showed the class and provided the quality of play that paved the way for Michael, Magic, Kareem and all the rest who came behind. He also served as the first African-American assistant coach when he worked for the Detroit Pistons for two seasons after retiring as a player.

It also should be noted that Lloyd, a member of the National Basketball Hall of Fame, took 2 years out of his career to serve in the U.S. Army. His job these days—community outreach for a concern headed by Dave Bing, another product of the playgrounds of Washington, DC., to make good in the pros—seems a hand-and-glove fit for a man who, throughout his life, has made everyone around him better.

His play on the court made all his teammates better—he led his college team to two conference titles and his pro team to one NBA championship. His class on and off the court made those who signed him and helped him start his NBA career look smart. And his professional accomplishments make his teachers in those segregated schools in Alexandria, his professors at West Virginia State, his family and all those responsible for his upbringing and education justifiably proud.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 286 recognizing and honoring Earl Lloyd, the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association.

Earl Lloyd was born April 3, 1928, in Alexandria, Virginia. It was at the city of Alexandria's segregated Parker-Gray High School that Lloyd began to develop his passion and skills for basketball. He began his collegiate career playing at West Virginia State College, a historically black college at the time. Before entering the NBA, Earl Lloyd earned titles for All-Conference and All-American for his tremendous basketball skills.

On October 31, 1950, Earl Lloyd integrated the NBA. Three years prior to Lloyd's integration of the NBA, Jackie Robinson became the first African-American to play Major League Baseball in 1947. Jackie Robinson has received national iconic status for breaking baseball's color barrier, yet Earl Lloyd has been overlooked for breaking that same barrier in basketball. Lloyd once said, "In 1950 basketball was like a babe in the woods, it didn't enjoy the notoriety that baseball enjoyed." It is now 2008 and the NBA is long out of the woods and the time is long overdue for us to recognize and honor one of its pathfinders, Earl Lloyd. He is responsible for lighting that path and since then many great African-Americans have traveled the road paved by Earl Lloyd.

Earl Lloyd's journey was beset with people yelling cruel and derogatory words. He used their insults to fuel his passion to excel. He proved that African-Americans could successfully enter into the National Basketball Association. He should continue to be a source of inspiration to all and for this reason he should be commemorated.

This accomplishment must be saluted as Mr. Lloyd's life serves as an inspiration to many, both athletes and non-athletes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 286.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MAJOR ARTHUR CHIN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5220) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3800 SW. 185th Avenue in Beaverton, Oregon, as the "Major Arthur Chin Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5220

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MAJOR ARTHUR CHIN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3800 SW. 185th Avenue in Beaverton, Oregon, shall be known and designated as the "Major Arthur Chin Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Major Arthur Chin Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, the history of America is the history of ordinary individuals who rise to extraordinary challenges and who volunteer their service in times of dire need. I rise today to recognize one such American, Major Arthur Chin.

Arthur Chin was born in Portland, Oregon in 1913. As a young man, he helped form a flying club, the Chinese Aero Club, a group of Chinese Americans who trained to fly fighter aircraft. He grew very concerned about Japan's invasion of China's northeastern provinces in 1931, and he volunteered to serve in the Chinese Air Force in 1932. Although he was safe at home in Oregon and did not need to do this, he saw the threat of fascist invasion and